

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice or disclaimer, and substitute new Claims 23-44 therefor as follows:

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled).

23. (New) A method of forwarding a telephone call from a caller intended to be directed to a first, fixed, telephony number toward a second, mobile, telephony number in order to render an intended responder associated with the second telephony number reachable at a mobile phone instead of a fixed telephone, comprising:

having the caller place a call to a virtual mobile telephony number associated with the first telephony number;

receiving the call at a switching apparatus of a mobile telephony network;

conditioned by the fact that call forwarding from the first telephony number to the second telephony number is enabled, routing the call from the switching apparatus to the second telephony number; and

if the responder accepts, terminating the call from the caller at the second telephony number instead of at the first telephony number, so as to establish a direct telephone call between the caller and the responder.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, further comprising:

upon receiving, at the switching apparatus, the call from the caller to the virtual mobile telephony number, first routing the incoming call to the first telephony number.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:

having the call forwarding enabled at an apparatus associated with the first telephony number.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
conditioned to the fact that the call forwarding is not enabled and that the incoming call is answered at the first telephony number, terminating the call thereat and establishing a direct telephone call between the caller and the first telephony number.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:
in case the call is not answered at the first telephony number, determining the second telephony number and enabling said call forwarding.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, further comprising:
after the enabling of said call forwarding, dropping a call section from the switching apparatus to the first telephony number, while keeping the call from the caller on hold at said switching apparatus.

29. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said first telephony number corresponds to a PBX network having a plurality of extensions.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said first telephony number includes a number of a PBX network switchboard.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, comprising receiving the call at the PBX switchboard, forwarding the call to an intended PBX network extension and, in case the call is not answered, providing the second telephony number to a switching apparatus control controlling the switching apparatus.

32. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said first telephony number comprises at least one PBX Direct Inward Dial number corresponding to one of the extensions of the PBX network.

33. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said virtual mobile telephony number associated with the first telephony number comprises at least one virtual mobile telephony number associated with said one extension of the PBX network.

34. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said virtual mobile telephony number associated with the first telephony number is a combination of the first telephony number and an identifying code or a prefix code.

35. (New) A method of operating a switching apparatus of a mobile telephony network in order to forward a telephone call from a caller intended to be directed to a first, fixed, telephony number toward a second, mobile, telephony number so as to render an intended responder associated with the second telephony number reachable at a mobile phone instead of a fixed telephone, comprising:

associating a virtual mobile telephony number with the first telephony number;
receiving a call placed to the virtual mobile telephony number at the mobile telephony network switching apparatus;

conditioned on the fact that call forwarding from the first telephony number to the second telephony number is enabled, routing the call from the switching center to the second telephony number; and

provided that the responder accepts, terminating the call from the caller at the second telephony number instead of at the first telephony number, so as to establish a direct telephone call between the caller and the responder.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, further comprising:

upon receiving, at the switching apparatus, the call from the caller to the virtual mobile telephony number, first routing the call from the caller to the first telephony number, and, if the call from the caller is answered at the first telephony number, terminating the call thereat so as to establish a direct telephone call between the caller and the first telephony number.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36, further comprising:

receiving information apt to determine said second telephony number from an apparatus associated with said first telephony number, and causing the call from the caller to be routed thereto.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, further comprising:

after said receiving information apt to determine the second telephony number, dropping a call section from the switching center to the first telephony number, while keeping the call from the caller on hold.

39. (New) In a telephone communications system comprising a fixed telephony network and a mobile telephony network, a system for forwarding a telephone call from a caller intended to be directed to a first, fixed, telephony number toward a second, mobile, telephony number in order to render an intended responder associated with the second telephony number reachable at a mobile phone instead of a fixed telephone, comprising:

a database associating a virtual mobile telephony number with the first telephony number; and

a call transport layer of the mobile telephony network adapted to:

routing a call to the second telephony number in case a call forwarding from the first telephony number to the second telephony number is enabled; and

if the responder accepts, terminating the call from the caller at the second telephony number instead of at the first telephony number, so as to establish a direct telephone call between the caller and the responder.

40. (New) The system according to claim 39, wherein said first telephony number is a number of a PBX network having a plurality of extensions.

41. (New) The system according to claim 40, wherein said first telephony number includes a number of a PBX network switchboard.

42. (New) The system according to claim 40, wherein said first telephony number comprises at least one PBX Direct Inward Dial number corresponding to one of the extensions of the PBX network.

43. (New) The system according to claim 40, wherein said virtual mobile telephony number associated with the first mobile telephony number comprises at least one virtual mobile telephony number associated with said one extension of the PBX network.

44. (New) The system according to claim 39, wherein said virtual mobile telephony number associated with the first mobile telephony number is a combination of the first telephony number and an identifying code, particularly a prefix code.